Amendment to the Specification:

Replace the Abstract on page 20 as follows:

--A method of partitioning an integrated circuit design for physical design verification includes steps of[[: (a)]] receiving as input a representation of an integrated circuit design having a number of physical design layers[[; (b)]] and ~~receiving as input~~ a composite run deck specifying rule checks to be performed on the integrated circuit design. The[[; (c)]] ~~partitioning the~~ composite run deck is partitioned into partitioned run decks so that the number of physical design layers referenced by each of the partitioned run decks is a minimum. The[[; (d)]] ~~parsing the~~ representation of the integrated circuit design is parsed to filter only the physical design layers required for each of the partitioned run decks into a filtered data deck for each of the partitioned run decks. The[[;]] ~~and (e) generating as output the~~ filtered data deck is generated as output for each of the partitioned run decks.--